

[29 November, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of villages without VPT facility
10.	Hazaribagh	764
11.	Koderma	200
12.	Girdih	2052
13.	Garwa	614
14.	Latehar	521
15.	Palamu	1379
16.	Ranchi	1039
17.	Lohardaga	76
18.	Gumla	579
19.	Simdega	383
20.	E. Singhbhum	497
21.	Saraikela	999
22.	W. Singhbhum	1024
TOTAL:		20973

Dolphin connections

1217. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mobile telephone subscribers who have got connections with MTNL's Cellular Service "Dolphin" as on the 30th September, 2001 in Delhi and Mumbai;

(b) the number of subscribers registered with the private Companies-Air Tel and Sterling Cellular as on the above date; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve working and service of Dolphin?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Mumbai 20234 and Delhi 22692

(b) Air Tel and Sterling Cellular companies are not operative in Mumbai. Their subscriber base in Delhi as on 30.9.2001 is as follows:

Air Tel 4,28,623

Sterling 3,10,901

- (c) MTNL has taken following steps to improve the service of Dolphin:
- (i) Network optimization is being carried out to further improve the coverage.
 - (ii) Adjoining towns viz. Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Gurgaon and Noida are also being covered.
 - (iii) Roaming facilities are being extended to all the places within the country as well as abroad.
 - (iv) Pre-paid service is going to be introduced soon.
 - (v) Adequate number of franchisees have been engaged to market the service and enhance customer base.
 - (vi) Special promotional marketing schemes are being introduced from time-to-time to improve customer base.
 - (vii) Aggressive marketing and focused media campaign has been undertaken to popularise the Dolphin brand and improve the customer base.

Satellite mobile communication Policy

1218. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to introduce a new Statellite Mobile communication Policy;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the new policy;
- (c) by when, it is likely to be implemented;
- (d) how many companies have shown interest in this new scheme; and
- (e) what would be the benefits of this New Satellite Mobile Phone Policy and whether the tariff would be cheaper than the existing tariff and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government have announced policy for grant of licences for Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite (GMPCS) Service on 2nd November, 2001. The salient points of the Policy are given in the statement (See below)